

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 002828

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/ERA AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/23/2015

TAGS: [KPAL](#) [PREL](#) [IS](#) [HR](#) [IR](#) [AU](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: PRE-GYMNICH DEMARCHE: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: A) STATE 153187 B) VIENNA 2827

Classified By: ECONOMIC-POLITICAL COUNSELOR GREGORY E. PHILLIPS

REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Embassy Vienna delivered reftel points on August 22 to MFA Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Director Andreas Riecken. Riecken said that the UK Presidency had not circulated a final agenda for the meeting. Given the ostensibly informal nature of the Gymnich, it was difficult to predict which Foreign Minister might want to raise an off-agenda topic. Still, Riecken noted that China and Venezuela did not figure in the EU draft papers for the conference, and might not come up at all. On the other hand, Riecken said there would be a discussion of a UK-sponsored project, a proposed Arms Trade Treaty to halt illegal global arms trafficking. While Turkey and Croatia did not appear on UK agenda per se, they were presumably subsumed by the rubric "Enlargement." (See ref b report for Austrian views on Turkish accession talks.)

[1](#)2. (C) MIDDLE EAST/GAZA DISENGAGEMENT: Riecken believed that the Foreign Ministers would want to take stock of the situation in Iraq, including progress on a Constitution. On Gaza, Riecken acknowledged that the EU would probably want to contribute to the disengagement plan as a positive step in the peace process. Since the Gymnich could not take formal decisions, other EU fora would have to work out specific formulas for EU support for disengagement.

[1](#)3. (C) CROATIA: Riecken said that Austria continues to see itself as an advocate for Croatia's aspirations. He said that work was proceeding within the five-member Task Force, most recently at the Political Director level. The next step, in September or October, would be to review prosecutor Del Ponte's evaluation of Croatian progress toward full cooperation with ICTY. The Task Force should also consider Croatia's action plan for compliance, especially in investigating and rolling-up the networks that support the fugitive Gotovina.

[1](#)4. (C) POSSIBLE WESTERN BALKANS CONFERENCE: Riecken said that Austria was now leaning toward hosting a ministerial-level meeting on economic development and integration of the Western Balkans into Europe, during its 2006 Presidency (rather than a full-blown Summit follow-up to the 2003 Thessaloniki conference). This could take the form

of an add-on to the Gymnich in Salzburg in early 2006, where five Balkan foreign ministers might join the EU-25. The Austrians' thinking on this was still evolving, and would depend mostly on the outlook for further progress as their Presidency approaches.

15. (C) IRAN: Austria and the other EU member states are closely following the status of talks between Iran and the EU-3 on shutting down Iran's enrichment program. Riecken thought it likely that the EU-3 Foreign Ministers would want to use the venue of the Gymnich to brief their partners on the state of play of the talks and their chances for success.
van Voorst